WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A donor web for use in a thermal printer, comprising:

a foil having a transfer side and a non-transfer side;

a layer of thermal transfer material disposed on the transfer side of the foil material; and

indicia ink-jetted to the foil, the indicia including information of at least one of a length of used foil and a length of unused foil.

2. A donor web according to claim 1, wherein the indicia is disposed on the non-transfer side of the foil.

3. A donor web according to claim 1, wherein the indicia is disposed on a longitudinal edge portion of the foil.

4. A donor web according to claim 1, wherein the indicia is in color one of white and black so as to be visible against various colors of the thermal transfer material.

5. A donor web according to claim 1, wherein the indicia is in a color to visibly contrast with a color of the thermal transfer material.

6. A donor web according to claim 1, wherein the indicia are spaced from one another along a length of the foil.

7. A donor web according to claim 1, wherein the indicia are spaced approximately 10 cm from one another along the length of the foil.

8. A method of applying indicia on a donor web comprising the steps of:

providing a foil having a transfer side and a non-transfer side, the transfer side including a layer of thermal transfer material disposed thereon; and

depositing indicia onto the foil during a spooling operation, the indicia including information about the foil.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the step of depositing includes depositing indicia onto the non-transfer side of the foil.

10. A method according to claim 8, wherein the step of depositing jetting includes depositing indicia onto a longitudinal edge portion of the foil.

11. A method according to claim 8, wherein the step of depositing jetting includes spraying ink onto the foil.

12. A method according to claim 8, wherein the step of depositing includes spraying methyl ethyl ketone type ink onto the foil.

13. A method according to claim 8, wherein the step of depositing includes spraying one of white and black ink onto the foil so as to be visible against various colors of the thermal transfer material.

14. A method according to claim 8, wherein the step of depositing includes spraying a color of ink onto the foil to visibly contrast with a color of the thermal transfer material.

15. A method according to claim 8, wherein the information about the foil includes at least one of a length of used foil and a length of unused foil.

16. A method according to claim 8, wherein the step of depositing includes depositing the indicia at spaced intervals from each other along a length of the foil.

17. A method according to claim 8, wherein the step of depositing includes depositing the indicia at spaced intervals of approximately 10 cm from each other along a length of the foil.

18. A system for applying indicia onto a donor web, the system comprising:

a slitter apparatus for advancing and cutting a donor web into predetermined widths and advancing the donor web onto supply rolls, the donor web including a foil having a transfer side carrying a layer of thermal transfer material, and a non-transfer side; and

at least one inkjet head for applying indicia onto a longitudinal edge portion of the foil of the donor web at spaced intervals along a length thereof as the web is advanced onto supply rolls.

19. A system according to claim 18, wherein the at least one inkjet head includes first and second inkjet heads.

20. A system according to claim 19, wherein the first inkjet head is for applying white ink, and the second inkjet head is for applying black ink.

21. A system according to claim 19, wherein the first inkjet head is for applying an ink having a first color, and the second inkjet head is for applying an ink having a second color, the first and second colors visibly contrasting with a color of the thermal transfer material.

22. A system according to claim 18, further comprising at least one dryer disposed downstream of the at least one inkjet head in a direction of donor web advancement along the slitter apparatus for drying ink applied to the foil of the donor web.

23. A system according to claim 22, wherein the dryer includes an air blower.

24. A donor web cassette for a thermal transfer printer, the cassette comprising:

a housing including a supply roll and a take-up roll;

a donor web accommodated by the housing and coupled to the supply roll and the take-up roll, the housing defining an opening between the supply roll and the take-up roll to expose for viewing a portion of the donor web within the opening; and

indicia ink-jetted to the donor web, the indicia including information of at least one of a length of used donor web and a length of unused donor web.

25. A donor web cassette according to claim 24, wherein the donor web includes:

a foil having a transfer side and a non-transfer side;

a layer of thermal transfer material disposed on the transfer side of the foil material, and wherein the indicia is disposed on the foil.

26. A donor web cassette according to claim 25, wherein the indicia is disposed on the non-transfer side of the foil.

27. A donor web cassette according to claim 25, wherein the indicia is disposed on a longitudinal edge portion of the foil.

28. A donor web according to claim 25, wherein the indicia is in color one of white and black so as to be visible against various colors of the thermal transfer material.

29. A donor web according to claim 25, wherein the indicia is in a color to visibly contrast with a color of the thermal transfer material.

30. A donor web according to claim 25, wherein the indicia are spaced from one another along a length of the foil.

31. A donor web according to claim 25, wherein the indicia are spaced approximately 10 cm from one another along a length of the foil.

32. A web for use in a thermal printer, comprising:

a sheet material; and

indicia ink-jetted to the sheet material, the indicia including information of at least one of a length of used sheet material and a length of unused sheet material.

33. A web according to claim 32, wherein the sheet material is one of a donor web and a receiver web.